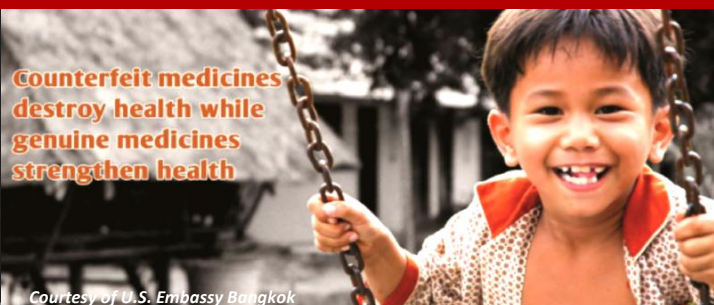


FACING A GLOBAL CHALLENGE: COMBATting SUBSTANDARD AND COUNTERFEIT DRUGS



Courtesy of U.S. Embassy Bangkok



Courtesy of U.S. Embassy Bangkok



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WHAT ARE COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES?

Substandard/Spurious/Falsified/Falsely-labeled/Counterfeit (SSFFC) medicines are medical products that are deliberately and fraudulently mislabeled with respect to identity and/or source.

SSFFC medicines include products with the wrong amounts of the correct ingredients, the wrong ingredients altogether, without active ingredients, with insufficient or too much active ingredient, or with fake packaging. These medicines are found everywhere in the world, and can have random mixtures of harmful toxic substances. However, one thing remains the same: **SSFFC medicines are always illegal.**

Many forms of legitimate medicines have been counterfeited, from medicines for the treatment of life-threatening diseases such as malaria and cancer, to inexpensive generic versions of painkillers and antihistamines. Organized crime entities use counterfeit products to make a profit, while distributing low quality and dangerous medicines. **Use of SSFFC medicines can result in treatment failure, toxicity, and/or death.**

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S ROLE IN COMBATING COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES

International Engagement: The United States Government (USG) actively engages with international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to shape international policy and regulation to effectively combat counterfeit medicines.

Bilateral Capacity Building: Since 2004, the Department of State has steadily increased funding that builds foreign law

enforcement capacity to combat intellectual property rights (IPR) crime. We have dedicated millions of dollars to enable USG inter-agency teams from the Department of Justice, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and the Department of Homeland Security to deliver assistance to foreign partners.

In addition to its financial support, the Department of State is dedicated to bolstering government-to-government training and technical assistance for foreign law enforcement to combat IPR crime, including falsified trademarks and other fake marks, which are commonly used on counterfeit medicines. Another important partnership involves working with the National IPR Center (www.iprcenter.gov) to accomplish these goals.

Public Diplomacy Outreach: The State Department funds Public Diplomacy and outreach projects through our Embassies to raise awareness with the use of workshops, seminars, and media campaigns.

KEY USG PARTNERS

Civil Society Dialogue: We work with health industry stakeholders, educators, pharmacists, hospitals, industry associations and foreign government officials to increase capacity building and gain perspective from those working "on the ground".

A few of our worldwide partners include: Partnership for Safe Medicines, "Fight the Fakes", Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies, Center for Safe Internet Pharmacies, the United States' Pharmacopeia, and generic and innovative pharmaceutical/biotechnology companies.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

BeSafeRx - druginfo@fda.hhs.gov

World Health Organization - <http://www.who.int>

The Global Fund - <http://www.theglobalfund.org>

Be Responsible!

To report suspicious activity or counterfeit medicines, email:
rapidalert@who.int

Stay Informed!

For More Information Visit:

U.S. Department of State
*Bureau of Economic and Business
Affairs*

<http://www.state.gov/e/eb>
Email: econengage@state.gov

*Bureau of Oceans, International
Environmental and Scientific
Affairs*

<http://www.state.gov/e/oes>